

Strange and Wonderful News

Being a True, tho' Sad

RELATION
OF
Six Sea-Men?


(Belonging to the *Margaret of Boston,*)

W H O

Sold Themselves to the *Devil,*
And were Invisibly Carry'd away.

With an ACCOUNT of the said SHIP
being Sunk under Water, where She continued full *Eleven Weeks*: All which Time, to Admiration, the rest of the SHIP's Crew Liv'd, and Fed upon Raw Meat, and Live Fish, that swam over their Heads.

The Names of the *Three Persons*, that were (thro' Mercy) Preserv'd so long under water, were *William Davies*, (a Man very well known to the Merchants in *London*;) Mr. *William Kadner*, and Mr. *William Eywater*. There was only *One Boy* Drowned.

 The Truth of which Strange and Miraculous RELATION, will be Attested at Mr. Loyd's Coffee House, near the General Post-Office, in *Lumbarb-Street*; where the Original Letter, at large, will be shewn to any Person, that desires to be further satisfy'd in the Truth hereof; and by several Eminent Merchants upon the Exchange.

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**A Sad, but True Relation,
of Six Seamen who Sold
themselves to the Devil, &c.**

THough this following Relation contains matter of very great Wonder and Amazement; nevertheless it comes to our Hands, confirm'd by that sufficient Testimony, that we offer it to the Reader as a Narrative of unquestion'd Truth and Reputation.

By a Letter from Barbadoes, of the 23^d. of July last, written by a Person of Worth and Credit, in that Island, we have this Relation, viz. That the Margaret from Boston, the 21th. of December 95 bound to Barbadoes,

badoes, in their Passage one of the Saylers at the Helm call'd to the Master of the Vessel, and told him, *That he could steer no longer.* The Master asking the reason, he replyed, *That he was not well*; and for that cause quitted his Post; the Master taking the Helm, the said Sailor further declared, *That there stood a Spirit by the Binnacle, that accus'd him of killing a Woman*; a Fault which the Spirit had falsly charg'd him with; for he never committed any such unmanly Crime in his Life. The Spirit, he said, further told him, *That all the Ships Company had sign'd an Agreement with the Devil, which was us'd as an Argument for him to do the same.*

The next day the Fellow fell into strange Deliriums, and talk'd of wonderful Accidents that would befall the Ship; which were look'd up-

on as nothing but the wild Notions of his crazed Senses, the Chimera's of Frenzy. Particularly he said, *That the Spirit had brought a Boat to fetch him away*; with other ridiculous idle Discourse of the same Nature.

Upon the 17th. of *January* in the Latitude of 19 about 9 at Night, a small white Cloud arose, without any Rain, or extraordinary Wind, which presently falling upon the ship pressed her down with that strange and indeed supernatural Weight and force that the Hatches flew out, and the whole Ship was under Water, by which unhappy Accident, the Boy was wash'd off and drowned.

But here to begin the more Miraculous Part of my Narrative, the Ship continued under Water for Eleven Weeks; a thing that struck (as may be well imagined) an extraordinary

traordinary Consternation and Confusion through the Marriners, from several strange Arguments of their Astonishment. *First*, That the Ship should be wholly immersed under Water, and yet not sunk downright to the bottom. *Secondly*, That tho' they were apparently thus intirely under Water, yet the Ship was not wholly filled with Water, but that they had Air enough to breath in, by which means they continued alive; feeding all this while, upon raw meat, and fresh Fish which came swimming over the Vessel, and several of which they Caught and Eat. Their Lodging was on Boards placed athwart the Rail near the Taffrel covered with a Sail. The men were always wet which, in so long a time, made that Impression upon them that their Flesh on their Bodies was galled and raw.

But what was the most dismal part of all, Six of the Ship's Crew upon the sinking of the Vessel under water, were frightened with *Infernal Spirits*; and about 12 the first Night were carried away invisibly, leaving no more then 4 Persons alive behind them; which indeed gave some little Credit to what the fore mentioned Sailor at the Helm had declared in his *Deliriums*.

After this 11 Weeks Immurement these wondrous watry Walls, for so I may justly call it, the Ship recovered it self above Water again; and the first Land they could discover was the Island *Disfiado*, which, with so few Hands left, they could not fetch up, by reason of a strong *Northern Current* that bore against 'em. The next was *Grand-Terra*, where they met with the same Disappointment

ment: But on the 5th. of *April* they run themselves on Shore upon *Guardelupo*; where the *French* Treated them very kindly, not as Prisoners, but as Men in Distress.

The names of the *Three Seamen* left Alive are *William Davis* Master (a Man very well known in *London* amongst the *Berbadoes* Merchants) *William Cadner*, and *William Bywater*.

Not only the Original Letter, and the whole Relation, at large; is to be seen at Mr. Lloyd's Coffee-house in Lumbardestreet; but likewise several Persons are to be heard of, and spoken withal upon the Exchange, in Attestation of the whole Truth herein declared.

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The Reverend Mr. Baxter, in his Treatise of Spirits, says, *That the Hurricanes and Tempests have Natural Causes, yet there is great Reason to think they are managed by Spirits:* In Confirmation whereof, he relates many notable Instances of his own particular Deliverances from the Fury of most Boysterous Whirlewinds; namely, when the Reapers in *Evesham Vale*, were Hurt, Writen, and One Killed, some Friendly Power (for so he expresses it) restrain'd the course of Gravally Sand, rais'd by a Whirlwind, as it met him in a narrow Lane.

Licensed according to Order.
